

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS


This paper is submitted in response to the office action mailed May 12, 2005.

In that office action, claims 26-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 4-13, and 16-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over various cited prior art references. Claims 2-4 and 14-16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but it was indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this paper claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2. Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 14. Claims 2 and 14 have been cancelled. Claims 3, 4, and 15 have been amended to correct dependency in view of the previously mentioned amendments. Finally, claim 26 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1, 3-13, 15-21, and 23-27 are now in condition for immediate allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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